

OSA-4551-63  
Copy 3 of 3  
10 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director for Field Activities, OSA

SUBJECT: Wedge Sole Boots

REFERENCE: [ ] 1027 IN 89398, dtd 30 August 1963

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1. This is another of several areas where E & E and survival requirements need to be meshed. [ ] has been rather inaccessible for several months and now has been further delayed in California due to the injury of his wife in an automobile accident.

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2. [ ] has reaffirmed the desirability of wedge soled boots. In addition to their walking comfort and lack of break-in requirement, their tracks are virtually indistinguishable from native footwear in most areas of the world.

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3. The pilots have flown with this type boot on low altitude flights without pressure suits and find that they are suitable for flying. The detachable spur David Clark Co. suggested clipped around the heel of a conventional boot. [ ] accepted this concept without checking with E & E personnel. However, a detachable spur could be designed to snap into a metal tube fitted through the thick foam rubber heel of the desired boot.

4. We suggest David Clark be given the go-ahead on wedge soled boots, with the provision that if they find the problem to be greater than expected or if survival potential would be degraded by their use, that we will, of necessity, accept the conventional heeled type.

5. Although this is a relatively small detail, we feel that we would be remiss in not pressing for the best possible equipment.

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[ ]  
Chief, Intelligence Division, OSA

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